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LB 280

next, if you care to speak.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, I do, Madam...Mr. President, members of the Legislature. To go back to this bill, when I came here this morning I did have some things that I intended to address in the direction of those who support this bill. I was going to point out the lack of necessity for it, the political underpinnings of it, re-emphasize what Senator Landis talked about in terms of there being no state in this Union, on the mainland or across the water, which currently recognizes under its law marriages between people of the same sex. I am not distressed by people of the same sex wanting to marry each other. They don't want to marry me, so it's no problem for me at all. I'm going to tell you all on the record the process I went through that brought me to where I am today in terms of being willing to be an unflinching supporter of the rights and privileges of gay and lesbian human beings. When I was growing up I lived in the black community all of my life. The black community, it may be somewhat more tolerant now, was not tolerant of gay and lesbian people at all. Every word used to refer to somebody who was homosexual was degrading, demeaning, insulting and disparaging. And, as I pointed out to some people, if I had wanted to make a nondisparaging comment about somebody who was homosexual, I didn't know a word to use to do it. I had no word in my vocabulary that was not degrading, demeaning, and insulting, that's when I was a child. Old St. Paul, the imposter said, when I was a child I thought as a child, I spoke as a child, I behaved as a child, when I became a man I put away childish things. I didn't even know as a child what homosexuals did that made them homosexual. That's how much I knew about the people I was willing to make disparaging remarks about. Wouldn't know one if I saw one. And if they were doing whatever they do, I wouldn't have known that that's what makes them whatever they were supposed to be. When I got into the Legislature I had a delegation of homosexual guys come over from the university and tell me what kind of bills I had better offer and what I had better do, and I told them, like I tell heterosexuals who are that arrogant and foolish, you can't tell me anything that I better do, you can't make me do anything, you don't own me, I don't work for you, you can't make me do anything, and if I was of a mind to do it, you just killed it. Then as time went on I began to read articles about the terrible things said about gay